

Minutes of Meeting  
Health Services Council  
Project Review Committee-II

DATE: 6 December 2007 TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Conference Room C  
Department of Health

ATTENDANCE:

Committee-II: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Gary J. Gaube, Wallace Gernt, Maria Gil, Sen. Catherine E. Graziano, Robert Hamel, Denise Panichas, Robert J. Quigley, D.C. (Chair), Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

Excused: Raymond C. Coia

Not Present: Rosemary Booth Gallogly

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Robert J. Marshall, Ph.D., Joseph G. Miller, Esq.

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of nine in favor with none opposed (9-0) that the availability of minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame as provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Gaube, Gernt, Gil, Graziano, Hamel, Panichas, Quigley, Shire.

The Chair introduced a new staff member to the Health Services Council, Robert J. Marshall, Ph. D.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the application of **Radiosurgery Center of Rhode Island, LLC** [Rhode Island Hospital (55%), New England Radiation Therapy Management Services, Inc. (45%)] for a Certificate of Need to acquire an Accuray CyberKnife to provide radiation therapy services on the campus of Rhode Island Hospital.

Ms. Almeida and Mr. Gaube noted for the record that they are recusing themselves with regards to this application.

Staff reviewed the handed out documents 1) December 5<sup>th</sup> letter from New England Radiation Therapy Management Services, Inc. regarding its merger with Vestor, 2) one-for-one equipment replacement request from Rhode Island Hospital with regards to a linear accelerator, 3) memo from Mr. Dundulis, and 4) December 5<sup>th</sup> comments from Vantage Oncology.

Mr. Gernt noted his disappointment with last minute timing of the submission of comments from Vantage Oncology which prevents the Committee and the applicant to have amply time to read the comments.

Mr. Zimmerman, President Spectrum Research Services, Inc., and an outside consultant for the Department of Health, made his presentation "*CyberKnife Needs Assessment: Rhode Island 2007*".

To a question regarding quality, Mr. Zimmerman stated that studies were still ongoing but that initial research seemed to support CyberKnife technology. Mr. Zubiago and Mr. Macri proceeded to explain that the demand for CyberKnife is increasing, and its implementation would minimize requirements for future investments, which they pegged as a savings of \$9 million over the next 4 to 5 years.

Mr. Gernt raised the question as to what the use of CyberKnife would essentially be. Mr. Macri responded that radiation therapy was moving away from conventional methods towards targeted therapies, and CyberKnife would help to achieve this. It was noted that more targeted therapies lead to less stay in the hospital for a patient needing radiation therapy.

The Chair agreed to address comments from Vantage Oncology at a future meeting. The Chair requested that the applicant provide a response to Mr. Zimmerman's presentation, and his conclusions.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA  
Health Economics Specialist